



CONSULTANT SERVICES

Environmental and Social Performance Support

A. Introduction

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. Government corporation whose mission is to provide assistance that will support economic growth and poverty reduction in carefully selected countries that demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizenry. For more information on the MCC, please visit www.mcc.gov.

Background Information

The Government of the Republic of Benin (GRB) through the Unite de Coordination de la Formulation du 2^{eme} Programme et du Suivi des Réformes de MCA-Benin (UCF) is developing projects for a possible second compact funded by MCC to improve competitiveness for agribusinesses by addressing policy issues impacting the agribusiness sector and reducing the costs and risks of doing business in Benin. The reduction of these costs include making improvements to electricity and road network infrastructure supporting agribusinesses and producers in targeted intervention zones in rural areas of Benin.

As part of a grant provided to the GRB under the authority of Section 609(g) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, MCC intends to procure, on behalf of GRB, consulting services for the preparation of feasibility and related studies on proposed improvements to electricity and road network infrastructure. The compact program currently under development with the GRB will continue to evolve as the compact development process continues; however, the current proposed design consists of two projects:

- The **Agribusiness Environment Project** which is intended to improve the business environment to increase private investments in Benin; and
- The **Enabling Infrastructure Project** which is intended to improve access to rural transport infrastructure under the **Rural Market Access Activity** and electricity under the **Access to Energy Activity** to help develop agribusiness.

Through these projects the goal of the Compact is to improve the business environment for Beninese agribusinesses and decrease their costs of doing business through reliable access to energy and transportation infrastructure while also assisting Beninese agribusinesses to meet international norms and standards required to be competitive in regional and international markets.

B. Scope

MCC requires professional consulting services on Environmental and Social Performance to support the development of the Benin II Compact.

The purpose of this consultancy is to advise MCC Environmental and Social Performance (ESP) staff and other members of the country teams on key environmental and social risks, management, mitigation, and planning. The Consultant will be required to provide a range of technical advisory services related to environmental management such as health and safety; resettlement action planning, implementation and

follow up; environment management; hazardous materials handling and disposal; water and air quality; and biodiversity conservation. ESP risk identification and mitigation will be applied across a range of project activities, including large-scale infrastructure (roads and Energy) in the context of the Rural Access to Markets Activity. The Consultant will be required to draw from and apply international best practice and knowledge of MCC policy and procedures to the various phases of the MCC Compact life cycle. The Consultant will provide services to MCC on an as needed basis.

C. Country

Benin.

D. Tasks

The Consultant's assignments may include the following:

1. Conduct environmental and social screening of Compact works for environmental, social, health, and safety risks;
2. Assisting MCC in determining requirements and scope for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs); other environmental analyses; Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), gender analysis and/or Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) in accordance with MCC Environmental Guidelines, IFC performance Standards and international best practices;
3. In collaboration with MCC and the MCA-Benin ESP team, assess the adequacy of strategic and activity planning, human resources, budgeting and current workload and resource requirements related to implementation and resettlement planning and management activities;
4. Coordinate with the consultants engaged for preparation, implementation, and monitoring of RAPs to ensure consistency in approaches and quality of documentation, and make recommendations to MCC ESP on follow-up actions as required;
5. Participate in meetings, field visits, and general mission activities; prepare concise mission documentation reporting recommendation, key issues and findings;
6. Identify opportunities to enhance project designs so they are more environmentally and socially sustainable including developing investment strategies and proposed activities;
7. Assess the consistency and effectiveness of local environmental laws and regulations as compared to MCC Environmental Guidance and international best practices;
8. Analyze the completeness and quality of existing ESP-related analysis against MCC Environmental Guidelines, IFC performance standards and international best practices, and identify potential alternatives and viable mitigation measures;
9. Assess implementation strategies to include project timeliness and phasing, capacity, policies, and effectiveness;
10. Assist in the review of draft tender documents, contracts, and modifications for consistency with MCC Environmental Guidelines, IFC Performance Standards, and international best practices;
11. Follow up, as needed, on issues raised during the previous mission and identify next steps, reviews and prepare Action Matrix as required;
12. Assess the extent and quality of consultation with environmental and social stakeholders;
13. Undertake any other tasks that may be assigned by the MCC-ESP Director.

E. Deliverables

Deliverable 1: Trip reports to the MCC COR/PM and RCM to succinctly summarize findings and recommendations.

Deliverable 2: Ad hoc reports. The Consultant shall respond (in writing) to requests from MCC COR/PM on a variety of activities and deliverables related to environmental and social

assessment/performance, donor coordination, and other such matters that may be needed for any specific task and that will be communicated by the MCC COR/PM and/or RCM.

Acceptance Criteria:

The deliverables will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Thoroughness and timeliness in complying with all of the elements in the tasks specified.
- Quality and clarity of analyses and work produced.
- Timeliness and efficacy of communications with relevant counterparts at MCC, MCA, and other relevant organizations.
- All reports are to be submitted in English (unless otherwise directed by the COR) in hard and electronic copy (in MS Word), with tables, data and calculations in MS Excel.

F. Period and Place of Performance

All work will be completed between the dates of award through a one year period (the estimated level of effort is 920 hours). The Consultant is expected to perform work in his/her home office and/or MCC headquarters or in Benin.

G. Subcontracting

The Consultant is not authorized to subcontract data collection, environmental and social analysis, translation, and other related services.

H. Conflict of Interest

The Consultant would be precluded from bidding on work and services (design, assessment, construction and supervision) to be procured by the local MCA accountable entity or using funds advanced under a Compact in the relevant country.

I. Timing and Reporting

All formal communication with MCC, including reports, will be submitted to the COR. The COR for this requirement will be identified via separate correspondence.

The COR will have technical responsibility for monitoring the Independent Consultant's performance. The COR will review and evaluate the contract's performance, and also will coordinate any communications with relevant counterparts and other donor agencies and organizations.

Any change in the terms of the Contract must be made in writing and approved by the Contracting Officer. No representation of the COR shall serve as a basis for an alteration in the general scope of this Contract or of the terms and conditions of the Contract unless confirmed in writing by the Contracting Officer. The Independent Consultant must communicate with the Contracting Officer on all matters that pertain to the Contract terms. Proceeding with the work without proper contractual coverage could result in nonpayment for that work.

J. Other requirements:

International travel is required. The Government estimates the Consultant will be required to travel at least four (4) times to Benin for a total of fifty (50) days during the period of performance. The Consultant may be requested to mobilize on a short notice and will be expected to deliver high quality finished products in a timely manner.